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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 AF-10 NSC-05
PA-01 ICA-11 EA-10 OES-09 L-03 INT-05 /134 W
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R 271639Z JUL 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8108
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE OMITTED PARA 6 A)

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ETRD, EAID, ECIN, TECH
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25:
HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 14416; (B) BRUSSELS 14521

1. SUMMARY: THE JULY 25TH FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL REVIEWED PROGRESS IN THE MTN, NEGOTIATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA, INTERNAL AND THIRD COUNTRY STEEL PROBLEMS,TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES,AND THE BONN DECLARATION ON HIJACKING,AND TOOK A PRELIMINARY STEP TOWARD RESTRUCTURING THE EUROPEAN SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY. (ALL REPORTED SEPTELS). NAMIBIA, TURKEY, AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA WERE DISCUSSED ON THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION
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FRAMEWORK (SEPTEL). OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL ARE OUTLINED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. AFTER HAVING CONSULTED WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL FORMALLY APPROVED JUNE 7-10, 1979 AS THE DATES FOR THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. COUNCIL PRESIDENT GENSCHER, IN HIS POST-COUNCIL PRESS CONFERENCE, UNDERLINED THE HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTIONS; CALLED ON MEMBER STATES WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO TO ADOPT NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE ELECTIONS; AND URGED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE PRESS, TO WORK HARD TO ASSURE AS LARGE A VOTER PARTICIPATION AS POSSIBLE.

3. FOLLOW-UP TO BONN SUMMIT.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT GENSCHER PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON ATTEMPTS THE FRG, IN ITS ROLE AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, HAD ALREADY MADE TO KEEP THE EC NINE INFORMED OF THE AFTERMATH OF BONN. CHANCELOR SCHMIDT HAD SENT A LETTER TO EC MEMBER STATES NOT PRESENT AT BONN, AND EC AMBASS-ADORS HAD BEEN BRIEFED IN THE COREPER ON JULY 18. A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE FIVE MEMBER STATES WHICH HAD NOT BEEN AT BONN HAD THANKED GENSCHER, THE COMMISSION AND OTHER SUMMIT ATTENDEES FOR HAVING DEFENDED THE EC'S POSITION SO WELL AT BONN.

4. NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW EC-ACP CONVENTION.
THE COUNCIL TOOK NOTE OF THE OPENING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON JULY 24 OF THE LOME II NEGOTIATIONS AND APPROVED A TIMETABLE FOR THE TALKS. IT IS HOPED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND ACP AMBASSADORS CAN BEGIN
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BY MID-SEPTEMBER AND THAT A MINISTERIAL MEETING CAN BE HELD IN DECEMBER TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS (REF A). A FINAL MINISTERIAL GATHERING TO GIVE APPROVAL TO THE NEW CONVENTION SHOULD COINCIDE WITH THE EC-ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AN ACP COUNTRY NEXT MAY. UK FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING THAT DISCUSSION OF THE EC-ACP CONVENTION HAD NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIVE, BUT THAT THE TENOR OF SPEECHES AT THE OPENING SESSION ON JULY 24 INDICATES THAT TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS LIE AHEAD.

5. COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.
THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE PROGRAM FOR FORECASTING AND ASSESSMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FAST) WITH A BUDGET OF $5 MILLION AND A STAFF OF SIX PROFESSIONALS (REF B). THE FAST PROGRAM, SCHEDULED TO RUN FOR FIVE YEARS, HAS THREE MAIN AIMS:

- -TO ANALYSE EXISTING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN
- WESTERN EUROPE;

- -TO HIGHLIGHT PERSPECTIVES, PROBLEMS, AND POTENTIAL

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- CONFLICTS IN LONG TERM COMMUNITY SCIENTIFIC AND
- TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT; AND

- -TO ESTABLISH, IN COOPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES,
- AN AD HOC SYSTEM OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN SPECIALISED
- RESEARCH GROUPS INSIDE THE COMMUNITY.

6. RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES.
A. GREECE: THE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL BETWEEN
- THE EC AND GREECE, SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 28,
- 1977, WAS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AND WILL
- ENTER INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 1, 1978.
- THE PROTOCOL PROVIDES FOR COMMUNITY
- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GREECE OF 280
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- MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD
- 1978-1980. MOST OF THIS WILL BE LOANS
- FROM THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK.

B. TUNISIA:THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO
- ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH TUNISIA TO
- ESTABLISH A CONTINGENT EC QUOTA OF 50,000
- HECTOLITERS FOR CERTAIN TUNISIAN WINES.

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C. BANGLADESH: THE COUNCIL APPROVED AN AGREEMENT
- BETWEEN THE EC AND BANGLADESH ON JUTE.
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